

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**March 02, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

Mayor Craig stated due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Roy, Sapienza, O'Neil, Terrio, Porter, Shaw, Barry, Gamache, Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Levasseur

Mayor Craig advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak, all comments shall be limited to three minutes and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

*Note: Pursuant to Rule 2A of the Rules of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, residents of Manchester are allotted a period of thirty (30) minutes to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community only during the Special Meeting of the Board of Mayor & Aldermen - Public Participation. You will be able to offer public comment during this period by emailing [cityclerk@manchesternh.gov](mailto:cityclerk@manchesternh.gov) or using the designated phone number and unique access code: +1 (786) 535-3211 followed by the access code: 613-320-869 when prompted.*

*Participants are automatically ordered by the meeting software upon entry to the meeting. All speakers will be muted upon entry and unmuted when their number is*

*called. Participants are required to identify themselves and provide their home address. Each speaker will be limited to a strict three minutes to afford an opportunity for the maximum number of people to speak. **If you do not intend to be a speaking participant** of the meeting, you are encouraged to both view and listen to the meeting on Manchester Public TV on Public TV Channel 22 or visit MPTV's website at [www.manchestertv.org](http://www.manchestertv.org) so as not to unnecessarily delay the meeting for participants who wish to speak. You are also encouraged to submit any email comments prior to the commencement of the meeting to ensure that your comments are received by your elected officials as they will be accepted as part of the meeting until the close of the public comment period during any Special Meeting of the Board of Mayor & Aldermen - Public Participation. Email will be monitored by staff up until the conclusion of this special public meeting.*

There was no one wishing to speak.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated I have some emails to read into the record. The first one is from the Manchester Housing Alliance and it states:

Dear Mayor Craig,

We commend the decision by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to hire a Director of Homelessness. To maximize the impact of this new hire, we ask that the City address the lack of affordable housing by establishing a Housing Commission as defined by NH RSA 674:44.

To increase choice and diversity in city housing, the commission would identify the scale of the issue and pursue opportunities to alleviate the lack of supply. The commission would give proper recognition to the problem at hand, promote solutions, elevate the dialogue around the solutions and facilitate the development of a balanced and diverse supply of housing to meet the economic, social and physical needs of the city and its residents.

Through the powers provided by NH RSA 674:44, the Manchester Housing Commission would have authority to:

- Conduct a housing needs assessment to define the scale of the problem.
- Encourage and participate in the development of needed housing.
- Assist in revision of the zoning ordinance to address housing cost and availability.

- Provide input on subdivision regulations that create barriers to development.
- Review those sections of the site plan regulations that address housing.
- Advise local agencies and boards in their review of matters affecting housing.
- Coordinate with Community Housing Development Organizations and non-profits.
- Hold meetings and hearings necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.
- Publish and report on the activities of the Manchester Housing Commission
- Hire consultants and contractors to help fulfill the endeavors of the Housing Commission.
- Receive gifts or money and property, both real and personal, in the name of the city, to assist in carrying out the purposes of the Housing Commission.

The powers provided by RSA 674:44 also imbue the City of Manchester with the authority to appropriate money to a Housing Commission as necessary to carry out its purpose.

Further, we ask that the city task the new Director of Homelessness with the responsibility of staffing this new Housing Commission and appropriate \$500,000 per year over the next two years to facilitate its activities. Within four months of convening, it should establish an action plan with BMA approval and embark on the activities to advance its duties. The following activities should be included within the Housing Commissions' action plan:

- Contract with an industry professional to conduct a Housing Needs Assessment.
- Collaborate with the Zoning Board of Repeals on revisions to the Zoning code.
- Advance redevelopment of underutilized City-owned property and new housing stock, including the creation of real estate development plans for selected sites and obtaining site plan approvals for those City-owned sites.

We thank you and your team for leading the way in establishing the Affordable Housing Task Force in 2020 and we eagerly anticipate its report. It was a meaningful step towards addressing systemic issues within the housing supply. We enjoyed participating and remain committed to assisting City government as it moves forward in implementation of policy changes. We appreciate the fact that you are taking this regional housing crisis seriously, especially as we see the numbers of homeless individuals swelter in the pandemic and subsequent economic hardship. This crisis affects everyone, including the homeless,

homeowners and renters. Let's continue to make a Manchester that everybody can afford to live in.

In solidarity,

S/Brandon Lemay and the Manchester Housing Alliance

City Clerk Normand stated the next correspondence I have is from Elizabeth Moreau and she writes:

I would like to address the Board in regard to a recent response to a complaint I filed against a member of this Board. After reviewing my complaint and the response, I am only left with more questions. The involved Board member states that the complaint should be tossed out like other items of garbage but dances around his involvement with Haynes & Associates. As the member states, he did do consulting work with the company but does not feel that more information is needed although the work that Haynes & Associates was involved in very well could be associated with contracts that come before the City of Manchester, especially since the company portrayed the Board member as the head of their NH operations. The Board member's response also does not deny his involvement in several companies that were listed as his previous employment, all of which have never been disclosed on any financial disclosure forms. The companies per the Haynes & Associates biography were Akon Technology Corp, Clough Harbor & Associates and Kimball Chase. A quick review of just one of those companies shows involvement with the City of Manchester. Akon was involved thoroughly with the renovation project for the JFK Coliseum which occurred in 2007. If the biography published online is true, more information is needed in regards to the Board member's involvement with Akon, and whether it was through a W2 or 1099 work. I will leave a full investigation in the hands of the Board and hopefully an impartial third party who can figure out the truth and bring some clarity and clear my concerns over the integrity of City Hall contracting processes.

S/Elizabeth Moreau

City Clerk Normand stated the next communication is from Sebastian Sharonov. He writes:

I would like to offer the following public comment for the meeting regarding allegations against Chairman O'Neil:

Upon reviewing the nature of Ms. Moreau's complaint, combined with the evidence presented as well as Chairman O'Neil's response to the allegation, a thorough investigation is warranted. Two mutually exclusive outcomes can come out:

1. Either Chairman O'Neil did indeed fail to disclose his business relationship with Haynes & Associates and potentially played a larger role in what companies were awarded contracts by the City of Manchester; or
2. The consulting firm, Haynes & Associates, wrongly appropriated the identity of Chairman O'Neil - a sitting aldermen - as well as grossly misrepresented their business relationship with him which would further warrant a review of financial implications for the firm as the result of such potential misappropriation of Chairman O'Neil's identity.

Chairman O'Neil did not deny that he had performed "some consulting work" for Haynes & Associates in 2016 and 2017. Considering the firm went so far as claiming he had been the Senior Vice President, "some consulting work" could constitute Chairman O'Neil having acted as a partner, trustee, member or employee and therefore, he should have disclosed the business relationship on the annual disclosure form as required pursuant to Article IX, Section 9.03 (f) of the City Charter. However, if that was the case it is suspicious that the firm would take down Chairman O'Neil's biography following the allegations because the firm would not have done anything wrong.

If Chairman O'Neil indeed acted in the capacity of Senior Vice President for a consulting firm and failed to disclose the relationship, it is a violative of the City Charter and an investigation must be conducted to review the role that Chairman O'Neil played while conducting business with Haynes & Associates while being a sitting aldermen, including but not limited to, potential violations of Section 9.03 (a) Contracts and Purchases, 9.03 (c) Disclosure of Confidential Information, 9.03 (d) concerning receiving things of value to affect the votes on the board and/or 9.03 (e) Conflict of Interest.

Certainly Chairman O'Neil is to be presumed innocent unless and until a full investigation produces an outcome with a satisfactory explanation.

s/Sebastian Sharonov

City Clerk Normand stated that concludes our list of correspondence.

*There being no one else wishing to speak, **Alderman Long** moved to take all comments under advisement, receive and file any written documentation presented, and adjourn.*

***Alderman Shaw** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee